



News Release

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NAMPA HOME BUILDER PICKED
AS IDAHO'S ENERGY STAR BUILDER OF THE YEAR

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Holton Homes, Inc. of Nampa is Idaho's Builder of the Year for 2003, the Idaho Energy Division announced today.

The company, owned by father and son Dave and Walt Holton, was picked based on its outstanding development of building techniques and construction methods that incorporate Energy Star standards in homes the company builds around the Treasure Valley, according to Doug Plourde who oversees the Energy Star program with the Division.

The Holtons first began incorporating Energy Star home construction standards into their programs three years ago. Shortly after, they found that consumers seeking energy savings and lessened environmental impact in their new homes had found Energy Star homes to be more comfortable, healthy, safe, durable and even quieter.

Those elements, in turn, quickly established a perceived higher value in the minds of the public towards Energy Star homes than that of comparable homes not built to Energy Star standards, Plourde said. More importantly, the Energy Star improvements began to differentiate the Nampa builders from other home builders.

"Today, Holton Homes Inc., has established the standard other builders strive to achieve in order to position themselves in the building market," Plourde added.

Walt Holton put the difference an Energy Star home makes a bit more directly.

"People measure miles per gallon as one of the utmost important factors when buying a car, they look at the big sticker in the window. Our Energy Star homes typically perform more than 30 percent more energy efficient than typically constructed homes and that amounts to a big savings. Energy Star is our big sticker in the window," Holton noted.

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The Nampa homebuilders are currently developing a new 78-lot residential subdivision called Stevens Springs in Star, Idaho that will consist entirely of Energy Star homes. Holton Homes is the first homebuilder to build an all Energy Star subdivision in Idaho.

Energy Star homes feature higher standards of building which employ a wide range of energy conservation techniques such as increased insulation, duct work sealing, high efficiency appliances and other improvements. In addition, the homes must be built to and meet an Energy Star standard considered significantly above typical building code homes. In addition, Energy Star Home Performance Specialist (HPS) trained by the Idaho Energy Division test and certify each home that meets the tough Energy Star qualifications.

“Having a certified third party such as Energy Solutions of Boise is very important to the consumer. Just buying better products for a new home isn’t good enough. Making sure everything is done right and proving it by testing is the big deal. I was a big bah-humbucker of testing in the past but the first time I saw a blower door test in action, I became humble very fast,” Walt Holton said.

“Holton Homes have truly become students of the building science technologies and concepts. Moreover, they have initiated trainings through Energy Solutions for their subcontractors which brought all the trades into the vision of building an Energy Star home and what that means to home buyers,” Plourde added.

“We’ve learned that energy efficiency is more than just a good window or a super duper furnace or labeled dishwasher. It really comes down to a concert of quality, design, materials, testing and inspection all working collectively in the construction of someone’s new home,” Holton added.

“We are extremely happy with where we are now but have no intention of resting on our laurels. We are continually investigating ways to more efficiently build, with better materials and equipment and new ways to improve the home environment and to conserve energy. We won’t be satisfied until we can get the electric meter to spin backwards,” Holton added.

For more information about the Energy Star home building program, contact Doug Plourde at (208) 327-7983 or visit the Energy Star Internet web site at:
www.idahoenergystar.com